

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

The applicant resubmit a replacement sheet 3/6 earlier filed with the amendment on March 31, 2006, eliminating the terminology “LLMBE: on the original drawings to overcome the Examiner’s objection.

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has again objected to the drawings, particularly Figure 4 with regard to the abbreviation “LLMBE”. This is a second objection to the drawings and apparently previously submitted replacement sheet of drawings on March 31, 2006, namely 3/6 has been lost. Accordingly, the Applicants herewith submit a replacement sheet 3/6 eliminating LLMBE and replacing it with LLME.

The Examiner has also objected to the disclosure because the recitation “liquid-liquid-liquid” is indefinite and requires the identity of these three liquids species be identified.

In response thereto the Applicants have amended the specification with specific reference to Figures 2 and 3 identifying the first liquid as being the sample solution, the second liquid being a liquid supported by a membrane and a third liquid being the acceptor solution.

Inasmuch as all of these liquids have been identified in the original drawings, no new matter has been added by the present amendment to the specification.

In addition, the Examiner has objected to the recitation of “the hollow fiber” in and by the present amendment, “the hollow fiber” has been identified as “a hollow fiber” to overcome the Examiner’s objection.

Claims 42-47 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being incomplete for omitting essential steps and a relationship between “membrane wall” and “acceptor solution”.

In response thereto, independent claim 42 has been amended to identify the membrane wall having fiber pores permeable by analyte dissolved in the sample solution thus providing a structural link therebetween. In addition, the equilibrium has been identified as being established between analyte in the sample solution and analyte in the acceptor solution by passing of analyte through the membrane wall.

The Applicants submits this amendment to claim 42 overcomes the Examiner’s rejection under 35

USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 42-47 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 3,429,785 to Ross. As noted in the response filed on March 31, 2006, anticipation is established only when a single prior art reference discloses, expressly or under principles of inherency, each and every element of the claimed invention. RCA Corp. v. Applied Digital Data Systems, Inc., 221 USPQ 385 (Fed. Cir. 1984); *In re Sun*, 31 USPQ 2d 1451 (CAFC 1993); Advanced Display Systems, Inc. v. Kent State University, 540 USPQ 2d 1673 (CAFC 2000).

As presently claimed, the method in accordance with the present invention includes stirring the sample solution until equilibrium is established between analyte in the sample solution and analyte in the acceptor solution by passing a analyte through a membrane wall. Clearly, this step is not taught or suggested by the Ross reference.

Ross teaches an organic liquid ion-exchange electrode. Figure 6 relied on by the Examiner is directed to a water-hardness tester utilizing ion sensing electrode 50, reference electrode 56 disposed in a test solution 72.

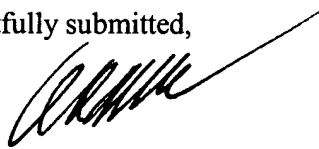
First, there is no suggestion of stirring the sample solution since the operation of the apparatus is by electrolysis.

Second, there is no equilibrium established between analyte and the sample solution and analyte in the acceptor solution by passing of analyte through a membrane wall as presently claimed. In fact, in Figure 6 only illustrates one test solution.

Accordingly, since all of the elements in the present invention are not taught, suggested, or even hinted in the Ross reference, a rejection under 35 USC 102(b) is not sustainable. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 42-47 under 35 USC 102(b) on the basis of the Ross reference.

In view of the amendment to the specification, claims, and drawings the Applicant submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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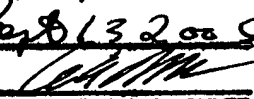
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